



0015.0010

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: FURUHATA)
Serial No.: 09/459,305)
Filed: December 10, 1999)
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES, METHODS OF)
MANUFACTURING SEMICONDUCTOR)
DEVICES, CIRCUIT SUBSTRATES AND)
ELECTRONIC DEVICES)

Group Art Unit: 2811

Examiner: Tran, T.

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RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sirs:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 27, 2001, the response being due by April 7, 2001, please enter and consider the following.

The Examiner requested election of a single species selected from claim 16, claim 15, and claim 17. Applicant respectfully traverses the election/restriction requirement.

The Examiner indicated on page 3 of the Office Action that no claims were generic. However, applicant submits that claim 13 is generic to all three species claims 15, 16 and 17. Claims 15-17 are all dependent from claim 13. (claim 17 depends directly from claim 13, and claims 15-16 depend directly from claim 14, which depends directly from claim 13). Applicant thus submits that claim 13 is generic to all three species and claim 14 is generic to the species of claims 15 and 16.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has not met the burden of establishing "(A) Separate classification thereof," "(B) A separate status in the art when they are classified together," or "(C) A different field of search" as set forth in MPEP section 808.

Applicant further submits that the Examiner does not appear to have followed the guidelines set forth in MPEP section 817 to provide support for election/restriction requirement of claims 13-19 and 26-29.

Furthermore, applicant does not understand the Examiner's decision to require a second election/restriction in this application. Applicant previously responded to an election/restriction

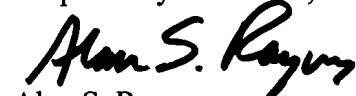
requirement for this application in which dependent claims 15, 16 and 17 were not individually restricted from one another.

MPEP section 803 states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicant submits that the Examiner has not established that it would be an undue burden for the Examiner to examine claims 13-19 and 26-29 in the present application.

Applicant provisionally elects the species of claim 16. It is believed that claims 13 and 14 read on claim 16.

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this election/restriction requirement further, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to either discuss the case over the telephone or to schedule a personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: June 27, 2001

Customer No. 24033